

Panama Canal Regulations

§ 111.9

(e) Whenever a vessel is maneuvering in an area where paragraph (c) of this section limits the speed to 6 knots, and the vessel's speed at dead slow ahead exceeds 6 knots, she is permitted to proceed at the slowest speed possible required to safely maintain maneuverability.

(f) The Canal Operations Captain may authorize departures from the maximum speeds established by paragraph (c) of this section in the case of particular vessels whose handling characteristics are such as to indicate that a higher speed or speeds can be prudently allowed.

(g) Paragraph (c) of this section does not apply to motorboats or to vessels of the Panama Canal Commission. Nevertheless, motorboats and vessels of the Panama Canal Commission when underway shall proceed at a speed which is reasonable under the circumstances and conditions and which does not create a hazard to life or property.

[48 FR 52704, Nov. 22, 1983, as amended at 55 FR 11909, Mar. 30, 1990]

§ 111.7 Risk of collision (Rule 7).

(a) Every vessel shall use all available means appropriate to the prevailing circumstances and conditions to determine if risk of collision exists. If there is any doubt, such risk shall be deemed to exist.

(b) Proper use shall be made of radar equipment if fitted and operational.

(c) Assumptions shall not be made on the basis of scanty information, especially scanty radar information.

(d) In determining if risk of collision exists the following considerations shall be among those taken into account:

(1) Such risk shall be deemed to exist if the compass bearing of an approaching vessel does not appreciably change;

(2) Such risk may sometimes exist even when an appreciable bearing change is evident, particularly when approaching a very large vessel or a tow or when approaching a vessel at close range.

§ 111.8 Action to avoid collision (Rule 8).

(a) Any action taken to avoid collision shall, if the circumstances of the

case admit, be positive, made in ample time and with due regard to the observance of good seamanship.

(b) Any alteration of course or speed to avoid collision shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, be large enough to be readily apparent to another vessel observing visually or by radar; a succession of small alterations of course or speed should be avoided.

(c) If there is sufficient sea room, alteration of course alone may be the most effective action to avoid a close-quarters situation provided that it is made in good time, is substantial and does not result in another close-quarters situation.

(d) Action taken to avoid collision with another vessel shall be such as to result in passing at a safe distance. The effectiveness of the action shall be carefully checked until the other vessel is finally past and clear.

(e) If necessary to avoid collision or allow more time to assess the situation, a vessel shall slacken her speed or take all way off by stopping or reversing her means of propulsion.

(f) When two vessels are proceeding in such directions as to involve risk of collision, a power-driven vessel or sailing vessel or motorboat that is entering or preparing to enter the main channel of the Canal from either side shall not cross the bow of a vessel proceeding in either direction along the Canal axis and shall keep clear until the vessel proceeding along the Canal axis has passed.

§ 111.9 Narrow channels (Rule 9).

(a) A vessel proceeding along the course of a narrow channel or fairway shall keep as near to the outer limit of the channel or fairway which lies on her starboard side as is safe and practicable.

(b) A vessel of less than 20 meters in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.

(c) A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel or fairway.

(d) A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can